

**Oregon School Activities Association** 

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TO:Superintendents, Principals and Athletic DirectorsFROM:Peter Weber, Executive Director<br/>Lauren Brownrigg, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: Update on the Proceedings of the Transfer-Eligibility Task Force

The Transfer-Eligibility Task Force held its fourth meeting at the OSAA Offices in Wilsonville and via Zoom on May 7th, 2025. The Task Force utilizes a hybrid format for all meetings that allows both Task Force members and those seeking to provide input the option of participating via webinar.

The Task Force's main objective of this meeting was to review survey data from the Delegate Assembly meeting as well as the Oregon Athletic Directors Association (OADA) Conference, both held in April. As a result of that feedback the Task Force focused heavily on the desire to enhance documentation standards for all student-athlete transfers. Members emphasized the need for clearer, more rigorous criteria, particularly in hardship cases. Suggestions for Hardship Documentation included requiring transcripts, applicable medical documentation, an affiliation questionnaire and written statements from students, parents, and school personnel.

The group also examined models from other states, such as Michigan's policy that limits eligibility in the same sport for a calendar year after transferring. Sub-varsity participation for transfer students was considered but met with mixed opinions by the Delegate assembly and OADA due to potential loopholes.

In terms of data collection, the task force is interested in exploring the creation of a centralized electronic system to track student transfers across the state, which would assist Athletic Directors in evaluating and determining a student's eligibility. This system would allow OSAA staff and school personnel to access consistent and up-to-date information as well as help detect patterns or abuse of the transfer process. The centralized system would also support a more transparent and accountable decision-making process for hardship waivers and appeals.

As the Task Force starts the process to evaluate a centralized electronic system, the OSAA will work to update the online hardship waiver requirements to include the suggested additional documentation. The plan is to move the Eligible Student Transfer Certificate and the Student Intent to Transfer Certificate to an online format in time for the next academic year to be utilized by the Athletic Directors for eligibility certification in all transfer situations.

The Task Force's next meeting date will be determined following the May Executive Board meeting.

Written suggestions and proposals on these issues should be emailed to Lauren Brownrigg (<u>Laurenb@osaa.org</u>) **Any communication received by the OSAA will be shared with all task force members for review and discussion.** The Task Force will keep the OSAA Executive Board up to date on their work during the process.

## A future list of meeting dates, Task Force Roster, charge to the Task Force, and information are available at the OSAA website: https://www.osaa.org/governance/task-forces.

The Task Force appreciates your support and encourages your participation in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact Peter Weber (<u>Peterw@osaa.org</u>) or Lauren Brownrigg (<u>LaurenB@osaa.org</u>) at the OSAA if you have any questions.